

DR. GATLIN - FIRST TO
NOMINATE LINCOLN

DRAWER 9

CANDIDATE + CONVENTION 1860

71.2009, 085 04074

Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Dr. Catlin – First to Nominate Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

ENVY THE JUNK MAN

How I envy the junk man
Who can collect and can keep
All the junk he desires,
In a messy old heap.

While all the junk
My family hoards
Are in dresser drawers
Or stored in cupboards.

—Ruth Rooker.

—Harold Bell.

A PAEAN

Dear Lord, unto thee I raise
My eyes, imploration in my gaze.
Give me strength, O Lord, always
Steadfastly to blaze
A path, regardless of density, haze.
Allow me, God, to continue to praise
Thy mysterious, wondrous ways
To the end of my days.

—Waltha Scott.

SPEAK:

Dr. Sperber's Lincoln Discovery Worthy of Further Consideration

of any formal type at
ever held and that the
um" was planted. It is
obvious in a study of
sue of The Commercial
r; see chapter 5 (page
of my book. Of course, I
have knowledge of the
end paper's claim at the
wrote the chapter. How-
would still stick to my
ul position, due to the
elming evidence offered
position. But, nonethe-
would have mentioned it
ence on the contrary and
to the ever-growing Lin-
ory. Will it ever end?

Cleveland paper hardly
out the Mansfield claim
the first public and offi-
endorsement of Abraham
for president of the
States was given him in

Mansfield at a county con-
vention held Nov. 5, 1858."

As I recall the wording of the
story you read to me over the
phone, there was some claim to
The Commercial Register being
the first paper to "nominate"
Lincoln for president. Is that
so? Well, as for that angle,
newspaper historians say that
this honor belongs—so far as
known—to The Illinois Gazette
of Lacon. My authority is Philip
Kinsley, author of "The Chicago
Tribune," an authority who re-
searched his field most care-
fully. However, even he is in
doubt. (See page 27 of my
book; also footnote to that
chapter, where credit is given).
It is my private opinion that
The Illinois Gazette was not
the first; as you know, if a man
ran for the state Legislature in

those times, he was immediately
hailed as a White House pros-
pect by some wildly enthusias-
tic editor of his party who
wanted a favor.

This much I should like to say
about the piece in the Cleveland
paper as reported by Dr. Sper-
ber. I think it should be added
to the record and is worthy of
study and further investigation,
but that the time element
should be taken into considera-
tion when it is weighed as evi-
dence. It is strange that the
paper was so long in revealing
the story. Editor Cook himself,
a man of rare ability in his
field, never made any claim to
being famous for the story, so
far as I ever learned. He seems
to have treated the thing as a
joke, a joke whose secrecy he
relished. (See art, page 147, my
book).

If we can find out something
about that doctor mentioned, it
might give the story some
"legs." I know the Abraham
Lincoln Association will be in-
tensely interested and as soon
as you print the story, I'll send
them a copy. I myself am in-
trigued, for we are all trying
to find the truth about Lincoln.

ROBERT S. HARPER.
Columbus.

The Contrast

Many a man who is proud of
his right to say what he
pleases wishes he had the cour-
age to do so.—Pipe Dreams.

The Shepherd

CONCERN

"If a man do that which is
right."

Eze. 18:5

The old man asked, "Are you
right with God?" His son to
the guest gave a pitying nod . . .
A few weeks later the father died
. . . The distinguished guest to
the funeral hied . . . And brought
a wreath for the old man's bier
. . . He said, "I've come to shed
my tear . . . In all this land he
stood alone . . . Among the many
whom I have known . . . Each too
busy in gaining his goal . . . To
inquire about my immortal soul."

JULIEN C. HYER

of the Treasury Snyder to
boost the manufacturers' Livingston
excise tax on autos from 7 per cent to 20
per cent and on television and other elec-
trical items from 10 per cent to 25 per cent
set off a new buying rush.

The letup in war tension has intensified
the trouble of Price Stabilizer Michael V.
DiSalle. Consumers are not particularly
price-ceiling conscious and are so busy buy-
ing that they don't report violations. Di-
Salle needs hundreds of self-constituted con-
sumer vigilante committees if he is to suc-
ceed.

BUSINESS men are dubious too. Adjust-
ments are still to be worked out. Thus,
the OPS has announced that prices of men's
and women's clothing, furniture, house fur-
nishings, and pots and pans will be de-
frosted. The new prices will permit re-
tailers to adjust prices upward sufficiently
to yield "normal" profits.

Labor difficulties also reflect the domestic
letdown. One union has asked a company
to disregard the Wage Stabilization Board
freeze and grant a 10 per cent increase.
When the company refused because of the
WSB order, the union threatened to strike.

The Wage Stabilization Board's industry
members want to make wage policy but
don't want to settle disputes between unions
and management. Yet when WSB freezes
wages and a union strikes for higher pay,
the Board has to resolve the issue.

Labor argues it's left out of the defense
setup. No representative is on Charles
E. Wilson's top staff. That's true. But
where could Wilson get a labor representa-
tive? The CIO would want its man; the
AFL, its; John L. Lewis, his.

NOT only that, but a really high-rank
union official is unlikely to accept a
full-time job. A union official is elected.
While he's away, somebody else might get
the votes and his job. In business organiza-
tions, when a board of directors grants a
top official a leave of absence, usually his
job holds over.

As yet defense has not really bitten into
the civilian economy. Defense outlays run
to only 8 per cent of the country's output
of goods and services. The pinch will begin
in April, when a 25 per cent to 40 per cent
cutback in steel for automobiles and electric
appliances is to take effect.

In December and January, the govern-
ment collected in taxes a billion dollars
more from corporations and individuals than
it spent. Such a surplus ought to be de-
flationary. Yet prices rose.

The reason is that banks have added to
the nation's money supply more than taxes
have taken away. The banks accomplished
this through the sale of government securi-
ties to the Federal Reserve System.

This ought to warn the President. In-
flation of bank credit can undo his pay-as-
we-go tax program. President Truman and
Secretary Snyder are risking just that when
they insist that the Federal Reserve buy all
government bonds offered at fixed prices.
They make it too easy for banks and insur-
ance companies to convert government secu-
rities into cash and so increase the supply
of money chasing a diminishing supply of
goods.

Neighbors

By George Clark



2-12

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What difference will it make to us? Your boss froze
your salary about 12 years ago."

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HOWARD L. BEVIS, *President*

COLUMBUS 10

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

April 4, 1951

Dr. Lovis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor Warren:

In connection with my work on a Dictionary of American Political Language, a project sponsored by the Graduate School of The Ohio State University, I ran into a newspaper item concerning the controversial meeting at Mansfield, Nov. 5, 1858, that is said to have been the first to nominate Lincoln for the presidency. I enclose an article from the Ohio State Journal of Feb. 12, 1951, in which I called attention to Dr. Catlin of Mansfield and later of Elyria, Ohio, who was named in my source as one of the leading participants in that meeting.

My suggestion that any information concerning this interesting, but until now entirely unknown man, ought to be collected and made publicly available, has found a most gratifying response. Mr. Ossie K. Ramey, a professional genealogist residing in this city, has taken up the problem and brought to the task an unusual amount of energy and methodical training. Already now he has been able to unearth and put beyond doubt a vast amount of information about Dr. Catlin, who, it appears, was not only an active politician but also an educator of renown. Among other things, Mr. Ramey has definitely settled the question of the Mansfield meeting by discovering a note in the Elyria Independent Democrat of May 30, 1860, which reads:

WHO FIRST NOMINATED LINCOLN?

We think we can answer that question.--in the reading room of the Wilder House, in Mansfield, Richland county, on an evening in 1858, when the news was received that the Illinois Legislature, disregarding the wishes of the people of that State as expressed by a majority of 4,000 in favor of Lincoln, had re-elected Douglas to the Senate, were gathered a bevy of good Republicans, including Judge Granger, J. Cook, Dr. W.C. Catlin and others. The gallant fight Lincoln had made in Illinois, his victory, in fact, over Douglas and the iniquity that had cheated him out of his seat in the Senate were discussed, and a meeting organized on the spot

and a nomination made of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency. This was telegraphed to the Sandusky Register and appeared in that paper, and if our memory serves us right, the Mansfield Herald rather rebuked the movement as premature and inconsiderate.

Therefore we claim that Lincoln's first nomination came from the Richland county Republicans in conclave assembled at Mansfield. - Cleve. Herald

Furthermore on a visit to New Carlisle, Ohio, where Dr. Catlin died in 1886, Mr. Ramey found his memory still alive and ascertained that there is an oral tradition that Catlin was personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln. He (Ramey) is also hot on the trail of papers left by Dr. Catlin. An investigation into the lives and activities of Cook and Granger, mentioned in the above paragraph, also looks promising.

However, the expenses connected with this investigation, which already now has made trips to Elyria, Cleveland, and New Carlisle necessary, are beginning to accumulate in a way that threatens to interfere with its successful progress. I would, therefore, like to ask you on behalf of Mr. Ramey whether your foundation is in a position and willing to underwrite the necessary expenses. According to his preliminary estimate, \$200 ought to suffice.

I want to add that I have learned to consider Mr. Ramey a most reliable and exceptionally quick worker, and I feel that the results would more than justify the expenditure. In case further references should be desired, they may be procured from C.P. McClellan, Probate Judge, Franklin County, Ohio.

Very sincerely,

Hans Sperber

Hans Sperber
Professor of Germanic Languages

HS/as

OUR READERS SPEAK:

Identity of Dr. Catlin, Early Booster Of Lincoln for President, Uncovered

Editor Ohio State Journal:

IN The Ohio State Journal of Feb. 12, I called public attention to Dr. Catlin of Elyria and the role he may have played as one of the earliest promoters of the "Lincoln for President" movement in Ohio. At that time, I had no suspicion that this suggestion might lead to early and reliable information about the life and personality of an interesting Ohioan, and least of all did I expect that it would give me a chance to observe at close range the mechanism of methods of detection such as one would rarely find outside of mystery stories; yet such is the case.

Following the slight clue given in my article, Mr. Ossie K. Ramey has decided to devote his historical training and his professional facilities to the quest for Dr. Catlin. Mr. Ramey's regular business is probate research, particularly locating and identifying missing heirs. This type of work brings him into constant contact with court records, early newspapers, and other records, and besides necessitates an amount of thoroughness and exactitude not easily surpassed in any field of humanistic scholarship.

As the result of Mr. Ramey's

investigation, Dr. Catlin, who just three weeks ago was only a name to us, stands out as a man whose life we can follow from the year of his birth, 1818, to his death, 1886, and as one who made his influence felt wherever he lived. From 1855 to 1858, he was superintendent of Mansfield public schools. From 1858 to 1862, he held a similar position in Elyria, O.

During all these years and later he was also very active as a contributor to various newspapers and presumably as a

medical man. All this and much more is evidenced in black and white, and even the tombstone of Dr. Catlin has been located.

Your readers will remember that the whole question started with the discovery of a little item in The Cleveland Herald of Nov. 23, 1860, that named Dr. Catlin as participant in a meeting in Mansfield, Nov. 5, 1858, at which the name of Abraham Lincoln was put into nomination for the presidency. It has been doubted that such a meeting ever took place, and promi-

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nent Lincoln experts like Earl W. Wiley, and Robert S. Harper of this city, are still inclined to consider this whole story as a hoax.

Mr. Ramey's investigation, however, has brought out one point that seems to show that the informant of The Cleveland Herald knew what he was talking about. He states that the meeting in question took place at the Wiler House in Mansfield, and it now turns out that in 1858 Dr. Catlin was a resident of this very place.

This may serve to keep those of your readers who may be interested in the question abreast of the investigation in progress. Mr. Ramey is continuing his work and without being too optimistic one may venture to say that the chances of discovering authentic evidence in regard to Dr. Catlin, as one of the originators of the "Lincoln Boom," look much brighter today than they did a few weeks ago.

HANS SPERBER.
Columbus.

April 16, 1951

Dr. Hans Sperber
Department of German
The Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Dr. Sperber:

I have enjoyed reading tremendously the results of your investigations in Ohio about the Dre. Catlin tradition. I feel that it will be impossible for us to make any appropriations for such investigations as you propose.

The Foundation is not in possession of any funds for such work which would come under the bracket of additional salary as there is no appropriations for special research work and would involve a departure from more than 23 years of operation.

We are of course very sympathetic toward the work and regret that Ohio State University does not have some provision for this type of historical research. Thank you very much for making available information of this interesting project.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:JK
L. A. Warren

